

Adopt Section 31-137 to read:

TRANSITIONAL CARE PRIOR TO PLACEMENT

31-137

- .1 For purposes of this section, "transitional care" shall mean the duties and responsibilities of the county child welfare services and probation agencies to a child residing in the State of California during:

 - .11 The time period between removal of a child pursuant to Section 31-135 and the detention of that child pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 309(d)(1) or placement of that child with a licensed or approved care provider, or;
 - .12 The time period between removal of a child from an approved or licensed care provider or a person providing care pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 309(d)(1) and the placement of that child with another licensed or approved care provider or a person providing care pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 309(d)(1).
- .2 During the period a child is in transitional care, the county child welfare agency or probation agency shall:

 - .21 Provide or ensure the provision of adequate care and supervision to the child, which shall include the following;

 - .211 Food that meets the nutritional, medical, and age-appropriate needs of the child;
 - .212 Supervision by trained staff in a sufficient number to address the needs of each child and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each child in crisis;
 - .213 Age-appropriate activities;
 - .214 Ensuring the child's medical needs are met.
 - .215 Protecting the personal rights of each child as appropriate and consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16001.9, considering the transitional care setting.

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

Efforts shall be made to protect and adhere to the personal rights of each child to the extent possible in a transitional care setting. For example, while it may be difficult to meet a child's educational right to attend their school of origin, other temporary educational needs can be reasonably fulfilled. Such activities may include supporting

communication with the child's school, accommodating for completion of the child's homework, or facilitating the child's attendance to Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and other significant school events.

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

- .22 Ensure that all adults having contact with children obtain a criminal record clearance consistent with California Health and Safety Code Section 1522.
- .23 Ensure that a check of the Child Abuse Central Index has occurred for all adults who have contact with children in transitional care consistent with California Health and Safety Code Section 1522.1.
- .24 Provide a physical environment that is safe, clean, sanitary and in good repair at all times, including, but not limited to:
 - .241 Adhering to local zoning, safety and building ordinances;
 - .242 Provision of sleeping arrangements that address the physical and age-appropriate privacy needs of each child;
 - .243 Provision of working bathrooms and bathing areas that address the physical and age-appropriate privacy needs of each child.
- .3 The length of time a child may remain in transitional care shall be less than 24 hours.
 - .31 The child's caseworker and/or any worker involved in placement of the child shall enter the child's removal time, removal date, and location in the child's case file within 12 hours of removal.
 - .32 In addition to the documentation required in .31, the child's caseworker and/or any worker involved in the placement of the child shall specifically identify any location where the child stayed for a period of 24 hours or more during the period of transitional care, and information explaining why the child was not placed in an approved or licensed home or facility during this time period.
 - .33 The social worker or probation officer shall adhere to the responsibilities for placement as specified in Section 31-405.
- .4 The California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services Division shall:
 - .41 Investigate complaints related to alleged violations of this section, which may include;

- .411 Conducting inspections of the buildings and grounds where children in transitional care are located and to conduct interviews of individuals relating to the provisions of transitional care;
- .412 Developing a corrective action plan or review a corrective action plan developed by the county child welfare services agency or probation agency to correct identified deficiencies in the fulfillment of the requirements of this section;
- .413 Monitoring county child welfare services agency and probation agency compliance with the approved corrective action plan;
- .42 Taking action as appropriate pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10605 to ensure compliance with these regulations.
- .5 The CFSD may delegate its authority to conduct the activities listed in .41 to the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, to ensure prompt complaint response and deficiency correction.

Authority Cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Section 1522 and 1522.1, Health and Safety Code, and Sections 309(d)(1), 16001.9, 10605, and 16501(a), Welfare and Institutions Code.